

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] ~~In one embodiment of the invention, a method for calibrating a laser transmitter includes (a) detecting an eye diagram of an output from the laser transmitter, (b) determining if the eye diagram is acceptable, (c) if the eye diagram is not acceptable, changing a value of a control signal in the laser transmitter, wherein the control signal sets an amplitude characteristic of a limiting amplifier coupled to a laser driver in the laser transmitter, and (d) repeating steps (a), (b), and (c) until the eye diagram is acceptable.~~ In one embodiment of the invention, a laser transmitter includes an input stage generating an input signal to a limiting amplifier, the limiting amplifier generating an input signal to a laser driver, and the laser driver generating an input signal to a light source. The limiting amplifier has a control terminal for receiving a control signal that sets an amplitude characteristic of the input signal to the laser driver. The amplitude characteristic may be a common-mode or a peak amplitude of the input signal to the laser driver.

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] In one embodiment, variable resistors 37, 38, and 40 are voltage controlled resistors (VCRs). VCR 37 has an input terminal coupled to rail and an output terminal coupled in parallel with VCRs 38 and 40. VCRs 38 and 40 have output terminals coupled to the corresponding collectors of bipolar transistors 32A and 32B. Current sources 34 and 36 have input terminals coupled to the corresponding collectors of bipolar transistors 32A and 32B, and output terminals that provide the corresponding output voltage signals Vout+ and Vout-. Programmable current source 42 has an input terminal coupled in parallel to the emitters of bipolar transistors 32A and 32B and an output terminal coupled to ground. The resistances of VCRs 37, 38, and 40 are adjusted to vary the amplitude characteristics of limiting amplifier 14, such as peak-to-peak amplitude, peak amplitude, and common-mode. Additionally, the current sunk by programmable current source 42 can be adjusted to vary the output amplitude characteristics of limiting amplifier 14.

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